

VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER ELECTION
CITY of NOVI

Tuesday, November 7, 2017
POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OAKLAND AREA

Website: www.lwvoa.org

E-mail: contact@lwvoa.org

Phone: 248-594-6602

3 Candidates for MAYOR for ONE 2-year term

<p>CANDIDATES for Mayor</p> <p>ONE 2-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i></p>	<p>Question 1: Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Mayor and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2: What are the top 3 Priority Issues that the city should address and what actions would you take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>JASON G. W. DORSCH 24320 Fairway Hills Dr. Novi, MI 48374</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</p>	
<p>BOB GATT 22670 Penton Rise Ct. Novi, MI 48375</p>	<p>I am seeking re-election as Novi Mayor in November. I was elected to this position in November, 2011. I am serving a third, 2-year term as the leader of the Novi City Council. Prior to becoming Mayor, I served two, 4-year terms on the Novi City Council from 2003-2011.</p> <p>Before serving on City Council, I served a distinguished 27-year career in the Novi Police Department. I still am known by many residents as "Officer Bob." I started the local Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program in Novi Schools in 1988, when I was a Police Detective.</p> <p>I am an expert is the law enforcement industry. I have been protecting Novi citizens against all dangers...all enemies ...foreign and domestic...through my flawless work in public safety. I have an impeccable 42-year record of KEEPING YOU SAFE! No other candidate offers Novi residents this type of knowledge, understanding, skill and public-service experience.</p> <p>We have worked hard, together, in our great quest for fiscal responsibility and community safety. We need to keep that momentum going!</p>	<p>1. Public Safety: Over the years, I've kept my PROMISE to help make Novi a better and safer community. I have supported INCREASING the size of the Novi PD and the Novi FD each year. And I have prevailed, even as other council people railed against it. Results: Crimes are down, solving crimes is up, and property values continue to soar.</p> <p>2. Fiscal Responsibility: I have lead the drive to REDUCE PROPERTY TAXES not once, but twice. Yet, we have maintained city service levels. We have had a strong recovery in residential values, added hundreds of million in commercial development, implemented a rolling multi-year budget, received a AAA bond rating, added police and fire resources and committed millions of dollars to improve roads, sidewalks and pathways.</p> <p>3. Economic Development: I believe in "pro-growth" and "pro-development" policies, as part of strong economic development strategy for Novi. We will continue to be strong, as long as we stay on the right path. I believe in conservative, low-tax and low-debt policies that have made Novi a destination city in southeastern Michigan.</p>

CITY OF NOVI (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for Mayor</p> <p>ONE 2-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i></p>	<p>Question 1: Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Mayor and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2: What are the top 3 Priority Issues that the city should address and what actions would you take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>BIN QAMRUZZAMAN 22445 Meadowbrook Rd. Novi, MI 48375</p>	<p>I was born and raised in Novi, served in the U.S. Marines for five years, including one combat tour in Iraq. I also worked for the Department of Defense, developing air defense systems for the U.S. Air Force. I am currently working as a mechanical engineer for Ford Motor Company designing new electric cars. As a Novi native, I want to ensure that Novi provides to future generations what it has provided for me. My experience in leading men through combat operations, and working for a Government department has developed my leadership skills as well as giving me an understanding of management, order and discipline. I believe in holding elected officials accountable to their constituents.</p>	<p>Novi has the perfect mix of rural and urban lifestyle which is the attractive force to many of it's residents. Bringing the wrong type of industry to Novi can diminish it's identity. I will increase the right kind of business to Novi that will promote Novi's identity as well as increase economy and trade.</p> <p>Novi residents do not have easy access to their own government and elected officials. I will ensure that all residents are aware of issues and decisions made by the council as well as being able to contact their government through monthly office hours and re-instating the Novi News Letter.</p> <p>Novi is going through a large expansion and development phase. Proper management and control is needed to ensure that the development doesn't impact Novi's environment nor lose it's green space. I will ensure that all development are thoroughly reviewed and managed to ensure both proper growth while not negatively impact the current residents of Novi.</p>

CITY OF NOVI (Continued)

7 Candidates for CITY COUNCIL for THREE 4-year terms

<p>CANDIDATES for City Council</p> <p>THREE 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than THREE</i></p>	<p>Question 1: Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for City office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2: What are the top 3 Priority Issues that the city should address and what actions would you take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>KELLY A. BREEN 242 Linhart St. Novi, MI 48377</p>	<p>As Novi residents since 2006, my husband (Matt) and I are raising Abigail (7), Elliott (3), and Ozzi (golden retriever) in a small neighborhood on the north side near Walled Lake.</p> <p>Neighbors and friends have expressed significant concerns about overdevelopment, traffic, loss of green space and an unresponsive local government. I have joined with neighbors to try and force the city to abide by the master plan and listen to citizen concerns. Too often, Novi residents are heard, but ignored.</p> <p>With a political science background from James Madison College at MSU, a law degree from Wayne State, years practicing law advocating for both people and corporations, I can bring fierce advocacy for citizens and compassionate leadership to Novi.</p> <p>I've knocked on hundreds of doors, reached out on numerous issues with social media, and held discussions around the city on various topics, including Novi developments, human trafficking and public safety. Residents have found that I am accessible, transparent, caring, and honest. I will bring these qualities to Novi City Council.</p>	<p>#1 Development /Environment: Development exceeds our infrastructure's capabilities. This is evident by traffic, roads, and razed green spaces. Developers frequently increase housing densities, mitigate protected areas, and alter zoning laws. I will hold developers to the master plan, address citizen concerns, and ensure infrastructure can accommodate new projects. I would encourage eco-friendly practices like living walls, solar energy, and electric car usage.</p> <p>#2 Improve Government Transparency and Access: We can improve communications with citizens and give them an earlier opportunity to review plans and voice concerns. Regular Council Office Hours allows residents to have a dialogue with elected officials, and a city phone app will give greater flexibility to obtaining information.</p> <p>#3 Being Neighbors: Embrace our diverse community, and work together on mutual problems. We need to find better ways to support to working parents, combat human trafficking and drug abuse, and help fellow citizens and our children. Smaller and more frequent community events can address these issues.</p>

CITY OF NOVI (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for City Council</p> <p>THREE 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than THREE</i></p>	<p>Question 1: Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for City office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2: What are the top 3 Priority Issues that the city should address and what actions would you take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>BRIAN G. BURKE P. O. Box 113 Novi, MI 48376</p>	<p>I am seeking re-election to Novi City Council. Having served on Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, ZBA and twice on City Council, I bring the experience in all matters of local government needed to continue Novi on its path. As a longtime resident and taxpayer in Novi, I have a vested interest, as do my colleagues, on the delicate balance facing the City as we approach build-out.</p>	<p>Continue to provide high quality services to the citizens of Novi while maintaining one of the lowest tax rates in the County.</p> <p>Economic Development continues to grow in the Novi and we will continue to use all available resources in our Economic Toolbox to attract and retain businesses. These Corporate Residents provide balance to the tax rolls and allow Novi to keep property taxes low. In fact, I am the only Incumbent City Council Candidate to vote to LOWER property taxes.</p> <p>Corridor Improvement Authority Establish, Appoint and Implement the Grand River CIA. This body will use incremental tax increases to improve the Grand River Corridor from Haggerty to Wixom with public amenities such as sidewalks, pathways, boardwalks, plantings and more that will help attract viable and long-term projects to this area.</p> <p>Infrastructure</p> <p>The voter approved 1mil increase to property taxes allows the City to work on improvements to City Property such as Lakeshore Park and the DPS campus.</p> <p>Additionally, we will continue to repair roads, streets and sidewalks within the City.</p>

CITY OF NOVI (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for City Council</p> <p>THREE 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than THREE</i></p>	<p>Question 1: Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for City office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2: What are the top 3 Priority Issues that the city should address and what actions would you take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>CINDY GRONACHAN 40570 Rock Hill Ln. Novi, MI 48375</p>	<p>I have been a resident of Novi for most of my adult life. I have served on the Garfield Road Homeowners association, The Garfield Road Mitigation Wetland Project for 11 years, which resulted in the creation of a 106 acre wetland, protected for 100 years. I have served on the Zoning Board of Appeals from 2001 to 2006 then 2013 thru present, 4 of those years a Chairperson, currently serving as Vice Chair. I have a paralegal degree which has served me well on the ZBA . Local Government works for you. Elected officials should be respectful, professional and cooperative. I have those qualities along my many years of experience. I am proud of the government the City of Novi has established , I want to continue to listen to our residents and work with mutual respect for the needs of all.</p>	<p>I feel it is important to maintain balance within our city. Balancing the financial base of Novi so it can continue to be a strong and vibrant city. This means there must be both commercial and residential growth in our city. Infrastructure will always be an issue in an ever changing and evolving city of Novi. These issues are not new and as a long time resident I know that . The solutions come from an experienced council, people who have seen where Novi has been, is apart of Novi Present and has the longevity, commitment passion and dedication to see to see Novi into the future. I want to see Novi moving forward. I want to be a part of a team that wants the same thing, so these issues can continually be worked on.</p>

CITY OF NOVI (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for City Council</p> <p>THREE 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than THREE</i></p>	<p>Question 1: Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for City office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2: What are the top 3 Priority Issues that the city should address and what actions would you take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>GWEN MARKHAM 45540 Violet Ln. Novi, MI 48374</p>	<p>Gwen Markham has been a member of the Council since 2013. She has served on the Planning Commission, with Friends of the Novi Theatres, and is a founding member of Sustainable Novi. She represents Novi at SEMCOG, serves as a board member of Oak-Mac NOW, and volunteers with several organizations in support of women, children and the environment.</p>	<p>The City’s top priorities are related to its rapid growth.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Too many cars are on Novi’s roads. Our malls, hospital, and Suburban Showplace are employment and visitor destinations. 60,000 cars come and go from Novi each day. We should follow the Transportation Master Plan of 2015, which included a mall circulator, traffic calming measures, more non-motorized pathways, and possible public transit on main corridors. Long term solutions for Beck and Ten Mile also need to be addressed. 2) Recent developments have ignored natural site features. I want our ordinances modified to tighten the requirements for protecting unique quality features of our community’s landscape during development. 3) We need better ways for individual citizens to communicate directly with their elected officials. Bringing back Mayor and Council office hours would be a good start.

CITY OF NOVI (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for City Council</p> <p>THREE 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than THREE</i></p>	<p>Question 1: Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for City office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2: What are the top 3 Priority Issues that the city should address and what actions would you take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>ANDREW IAN MUTCH 24740 Taft Rd. Novi, MI 48375</p>	<p>I am a lifelong resident of Novi. Married to Wendy, we live in a 1926 Sears Catalog House on Taft Road. I have served three terms on the Novi City Council. I previously served on the Library Board and the Planning Commission. Professionally, I have over 20 years of experience working for local governments in the Information Technology field.</p> <p>I offer voters a strong record of service on behalf of Novi residents and taxpayers. I ask questions, insist on accountability, and seek out constructive solutions. I am committed to ensuring that citizens are heard, their questions answered and their concerns addressed.</p> <p>I am asking voters for another term on the City Council. I want to see Novi build on the successes of the past four years while meeting the challenges that come with new growth, shifting economic priorities and the changing demographics of an evolving city. With your support and your vote, I can help guide Novi’s progress in a way that benefits all Novi residents.</p>	<p>Neighborhoods First: Good neighborhoods are the foundation of a great city. Novi residents expect and deserve safe neighborhoods with well-maintained streets. I will encourage neighborhood-focused investments and services that maintain property values so Novi continues to be a great place to live.</p> <p>Fiscally Responsible Government: Government must live within its means, and I am committed to upholding that principle. Balanced budgets, paying down debt, prioritizing services and reducing legacy costs – I have supported these measures to keep Novi financially sound. Likewise, I have backed prudent investments in city facilities and infrastructure.</p> <p>Preserving Novi's Character: Overdevelopment taxes Novi's roads, destroys woodlands and wetlands and negatively affects the quality of life for too many Novi residents. Protecting woodlands and open spaces contributes significantly to Novi’s community identity and protects our quality of life. I will insist that new development follow the Master Plan, be compatible with existing neighborhoods and not generate excessive traffic.</p>
<p>SAM OLSEN 23986 Elizabeth Ln. Novi, MI 48374</p>	<p align="center">DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</p>	
<p>BRYAN VALENTINE 45254 Jacob Dr. Novi, MI 48375</p>	<p align="center">DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</p>	

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan national organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party. Candidate responses are included as submitted and have not been edited except in cases where the replies have exceeded the stated word limitations. **Spelling and Grammar were not corrected.** The inclusion of candidates’ statements and opinions is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters which takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by the candidates.